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ANNFIELD PLAIN
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,
FOR THE YEAR 1919.

DIPTON :
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1920.

INACLETE HOUSE,
ANNFIELD PLAIN,
March, 1920.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE ANNFIELD
PLAIN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,—

I beg to submit for your consideration the following Report upon the Health and General Sanitary Condition of the District for the year 1919.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

Area, &c., of the Parishes.

| | Kyo | Collierley and Pontop | Greencroft Within | TOTAL |
|---------------------------------|---------|--------------------------|----------------------|---------|
| Area of District ... (Acres) | 1,184 | 1,164 | 691 | 3,489 |
| Population ... (1911 Census) | 8,169 | 5,981 | 2,420 | 16,552 |
| Rateable Value ... | £24,803 | £21,150 | £12,659 | £58,610 |

Registrar General's Estimated Population.

| | | | | |
|----------------|-----|-----|--------|--------|
| For Births | ... | ... | ... | 16,813 |
| For Deaths | ... | ... | ... | 14,138 |
| Local Estimate | ... | ... | 16,400 | |

The Annfield Plain Urban District includes within its boundaries the Parishes of Collierley, Kyo and Greencroft Within. It was constituted an Urban District in 1896, and it comprises an area of high ground varying from 700 to 1,030 feet above the sea level. Pontop Pike, one of highest points in the County, is within its boundary.

The drainage of the district is good, as the land slopes into valleys on three sides, the water ultimately being carried into the rivers Derwent, Tyne and Wear.

The soil, mainly clay, overlying coal measures, covers the greater part of the District.

Six collieries operate in the District, with others immediately outside the boundary, and give steady employment to practically all the able-bodied men in the area.

The population are well fed and clothed, and fairly healthy.

Newcastle has the nearest Hospital, to which severe accidents at the mines are sent.

The more densely populated parts of the area are to be found in the scattered villages of Annfield Plain, Greencroft, East Castle, Dipton, Hill Top, White-le-Head, and West Kyo.

The following Table gives the averages of the births and deaths, &c., for the County in comparison with those of the District.

| | County. | Annfield Plain |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| | (per 1000 population) | |
| Birth-rate | 23·35 | 25·28 |
| Death-rate | 13·17 | 13·94 |
| Zymotic death-rate | 0·87 | 1·42 |
| Small Pox „ .. . | 0·0009 | nil |
| Scarlet Fever „ .. . | 0·09 | 0·12 |
| Diphtheria „ .. . | 0·16 | 0·68 |
| Enteric Fever „ .. . | 0·02 | 0·06 |
| Measles „ .. . | 0·19 | 0·18 |
| Whooping Cough | 0·09 | 0·06 |
| Diarrhœa (under 2) | 0·307 | 0·309 |
| Phthisis death-rate | 0·81 | 1·24 |
| Influenza „ .. . | 1·27 | 1·24 |
| Acute Respiratory Diseases | 2·50 | 3·09 |
| Infantile Mortality-rate | 113 per 1,000 births | 112·15 |

The local rates we calculated from the figures supplied by the Registrar General for Births and Deaths.

Causes of Death in Annfield Plain Urban District, 1919.

| Causes of Death. Civilians only. | | | | Males | Females |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-------|---------|
| All Causes | ... | ... | ... | 122 | 113 |
| 1 Enteric Fever | ... | ... | ... | | 1 |
| 2 Small-pox | ... | ... | ... | | |
| 3 Measles | ... | ... | ... | | 3 |
| 4 Scarlet fever | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 |
| 5 Whooping-cough | ... | ... | ... | | 1 |
| 6 Diphtheria and Croup | ... | ... | ... | 3 | 8 |
| 7 Influenza | ... | ... | ... | 8 | 12 |
| 8 Erysipelas | ... | ... | ... | | |
| 9 Pulmonary Tuberculosis | ... | ... | ... | 9 | 11 |
| 10 Tuberculous Meningitis | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 |
| 11 Other tubercular diseases | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 |
| 12 Cancer, malignant disease | ... | ... | ... | 5 | 5 |
| 13 Rheumatic Fever | ... | ... | ... | | 1 |
| 14 Meningitis | ... | ... | ... | 3 | 1 |
| 15 Organic Heart disease | ... | ... | ... | 9 | 6 |
| 16 Bronchitis | ... | ... | ... | 10 | 9 |
| 17 Pneumonia (all forms) | ... | ... | ... | 14 | 10 |
| 18 Other respiratory diseases | ... | ... | ... | 5 | 2 |
| 19 Diarrhoea, &c. (under 2 years) | ... | ... | ... | 4 | 1 |
| 20 Appendicitis and Typhlitis... | ... | ... | ... | | |
| 21 Cirrhosis of Liver | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 |
| 21A Alcoholism | ... | ... | ... | | |
| 22 Nephritis and Bright's Disease | ... | ... | ... | 5 | 3 |
| 23 Puerperal fever | ... | ... | ... | | 1 |
| 24 Parturition, apart from puerperal fever... | ... | ... | ... | | 2 |
| 25 Congenital Debility &c. | ... | ... | ... | 10 | 13 |
| 26 Violence, apart from Suicide | ... | ... | ... | 4 | |
| 27 Suicide | ... | ... | ... | | |
| 28 Other Defined Diseases | ... | ... | ... | 28 | 19 |
| 29 Causes ill-defined or unknown | ... | ... | ... | 1 | |
| Special causes (included above) | ... | ... | ... | | |
| Cerebro-spinal fever | ... | ... | ... | | |
| Poliomyelitis | ... | ... | ... | | |
| Deaths of infants under 1 year of age | ... | ... | ... | | |
| Total | ... | ... | ... | 26 | 22 |
| Illegitimate | ... | ... | ... | 3 | 1 |
| Total Births | ... | ... | ... | 213 | 215 |
| Legitimate | ... | ... | ... | 203 | 206 |
| Illegitimate | ... | ... | ... | 10 | 9 |
| Population for Birth-rate | ... | ... | ... | ... | 16813 |
| „ Death-rate | ... | ... | ... | ... | 16138 |

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

Summary of work done in the Inspector of Nuisances' Department during the year 1916.

| PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS. | | | | Number of Informal written Notices by Inspector. | Number of Formal Notices by Order of Authority. | Number of Nuisances abated after Notice. | GENERAL REMARKS. |
|--|---|--|--|--|---|--|--|
| Dwelling houses | { Foul conditions Structural defects Overcrowding | | | 19 | | 19 | Houses in foul condition |
| and | | | | 33 | | 30 | Roofs, plaster, windows etc |
| Schools. | | | | 71 | | 6 | Shortage of houses |
| Lodging-houses | | | | 6 | | 6 | Choked drain, lime-wash- ing, dirty bedding |
| Dairies and Milkshops | | | | 2 | | 2 | Out of business |
| Cowsheds | | | | 10 | | 8 | Limewashing, overcrowd- ing, floors, drainage, provision of dairy, etc. |
| Bakehouses | | | | 1 | | 1 | |
| Slaughter-houses | | | | 2 | | 2 | Limewashing, removal of manure |
| Ashpits and Privies | | | | 19 | | 19 | Temporary repairs |
| Deposits of Refuse and Manure | | | | 19 | | 19 | |
| Water-closets | | | | 18 | 2 | 18 | Choked and new basins provided |
| Defective Yard Paving | | | | 18 | | 18 | Yards cemented |
| House Drainage { | Defective Traps... | | | 23 | | 23 | Traps for scullery sinks |
| | No Disconnection from Sewers | | | ... | | | |
| | Other Faults | | | 46 | | 41 | Choked and structural alterations, downspouts connected direct to drain, etc. |
| Water Supply | | | | 2 | | 2 | |
| Pigsties | | | | 3 | | 3 | Removed |
| Animals Improperly Kept | | | | 22 | | 19 | |
| Offensive Trades | | | | ... | | ... | |
| Smoke Nuisances | | | | ... | | ... | |
| Other Nuisances, Factory and Work- shops | | | | 5 | | 5 | Limewashing and ven- tilation |
| Limewashing of Privies | | | | 12 | | 12 | |
| Ashpits unemptied and doorless | | | | 40 | | 40 | |
| Defective spouting | | | | 21 | 1 | 20 | |
| New W.C. Cisterns and repairs to vent pipes | | | | 12 | | 11 | |
| Inspection Chambers provided | | | | 6 | | 6 | |
| Totals... | | | | 410 | 3 | 330 | |

Number.

Remarks.

GENERAL.

| | | |
|---|------|---------------------------|
| Number of New Houses erected during the year... | 2 | Five Rooms, Bath and W.C. |
| Number of such Houses occupied during the year | 2 | |
| Ashpit-privies converted into Ash-closets | ... | |
| " " Water-closets | 4 | |
| Ash-closets | 5 | |
| Total number of Water-closets in District | 676 | |
| " Ash-closets | 1048 | |
| " Ashpit-privies | 1253 | |
| Ashbins (movable) | 30 | |

Waterclosets.

| | 1912 | 1913 | 1914 | 1915 | 1916 | 1917 | 1918 | 1919 |
|------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Total number of W.C.'s | 417 | 491 | 601 | 633 | 655 | 665 | 665 | 676 |
| do Ashclosets | 1007 | 1019 | 1034 | 1034 | 1054 | 1054 | 1054 | 1048 |
| do AshpitPrivies | 1376 | 1319 | 1267 | 1266 | 1263 | 1261 | 1263 | 1253 |
| do Ashbins(movable) | nil | nil | nil | nil | nil | nil | nil | 30 |

It will be seen from the above comparisons of the last 8 years that the water carriage system, if not rapidly, is at any rate being introduced when an opportunity presents itself, and that the objectional ashpit privies are, as they ought to be, correspondingly decreasing in number.

259 W.C.'s have been added to the district, and 123 Ashpit Privies have disappeared.

Scavenging.

The Scavenging of the District is now undertaken by the Council, men and horses being exclusively used for the work. The older method of giving the work out to Contractors was found to work unsatisfactorily, and it was thought that by taking the work under their own direct control, the scavenging would be more expeditiously and efficiently performed, as well as being more economical. Up to the present, the expected advantages of the new arrangements have not materialised. Although there is a noticeable difference, it is not so marked as it should be. The cleaning of the ash-closets and privies are often overdue, and doors are often forced open with pressure of the inside contents, and overflowing upon the footpaths. This should not be. The Council cartmen don't seem to realize that time is of any importance, and observing the horses, as they trundle along the public roads with their unsightly loads, one comes to the conclusion, that like their drivers, they sense that there is no reason to hurry. Possibly the nature of the work acts as a soporific on man and beast. This dreamful ease suggests a long descended connection with the mild-eyed melancholy lotus-eaters of the Nile!

We hope, however, that the suggestions recently made by the Inspector of Nuisances will have a beneficial effect in speeding up the work, and that each man and horse, does, at anyrate, a reasonable amount of work during his eight hours' day, otherwise, it may be necessary to consider the advisability of having the work done by motor carts or lorries. These light motor lorries are easily manœuvred in narrow streets, and in order to keep moving at all, must necessarily go on their errands with more expedition than the horse drawn arrangement.

Schools.

Owing to the excessively large number of infectious diseases notified in our District for some time, the Surveyor, who was acting at the time as Inspector of Nuisances, and myself made an inspection of all the schools in our area in order, if possible, to trace the origin of these complaints.

We made a careful inspection of all class-rooms, corridors, out-houses and yards, and the conclusion we arrived at, was that the newer and up-to-date schools, although looking clean, had more dust upon ledges, floors and corridors than seemed consistent with thorough and careful cleansing and supervision. The newer schools should be much easier kept free from dust than the older ones.

The older schools were anything but sanitary. The walls in some cases were damp and crumbling, windows and other ledges covered with dust, door and woodwork ingrained with dirt, floors worn and very uneven, class-rooms overcrowded with school furniture, and the lavatories outside in a foul condition. We certainly think that the older buildings need reconstructing in order to make them sanitary. The matter was before the Council, and the attention of the school authorities drawn to the report of the inspection at the time.

West Kyo Infant School was closed for a short period owing to an epidemic of measles in the village.

Water Supply.

There is no complaint against the purity of the water supplied to our district by the Weardale and Consett Water Co. The water is of a soft nature, and so far as known, has no plumbo solvent action.

The main source of the supply is from upland moorland or fells, and is not liable to contamination. The supply is constant, but previous years have shown that the storage accommodation is not at all times equal to the requirements of the large population supplied by this company. After a snowless winter or a dry summer, or a continuance of dry seasons, we have experienced the discomforts of a "water famine" on more than one occasion; and as an unlimited supply of pure and wholesale water is an absolute necessity—in order to safe-guard the health of the community—every provision should be made to ensure it.

With a view to this end, and in the light of past experience, the County Council is now promoting a "Bill" to acquire the water rights from the W. & C. Company. Our geographical position is pretty high, and in famine time we always experienced the shortage of the water first, and were the last to be relieved of our discomfort.

Lodging Houses.

Regular visits have been paid to these houses, and 6 notices have been served for the abatement of nuisances. Owing to the probability of these houses being in demand shortly, because of the Council's Housing Schemes being carried on in the vicinity, adequate W.C. and lavatory accommodation is required in the Flint Hill house. This, we hope, will be attended to in time.

FOOD.

| | Number. | Remarks. |
|---|---------|-------------|
| FOOD AND DRUGS. | | |
| Seizures of Unwholesome Food | 24 | Vide below. |
| Convictions for exposing or selling Unwholesome Food | NONE | |
| Samples of Food and Drugs taken for Analysis ... | | |
| „ „ found Adulterated | NONE | |

Milk.

The quality of the milk produced inside and that imported from outside our area is wholesome and up to the standard, no complaints having been made in respect to the milk being otherwise.

Dairies, Cowsheds & Milkshops.

There are in the District :—

| | | | | |
|------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Cowkeepers | ... | ... | .. | 17 |
| Dairyman | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Registered Purveyors in Milk | ... | ... | ... | 9 |

The cowsheds have all been inspected and reported upon, the conditions generally of these places being most unsatisfactory. Few of these places being built upon the most approved plans, it is necessary in order to ensure the health of the cattle, and the supply of clean, pure milk, that reconstruction of the buildings should be enforced.

Notices have been served upon 10 of these cowkeepers, &c., for the abatement of nuisances, and 8 have been remedied,

The approximate amount of milk consumed in the District during the last year was 117,520 gallons, and if the estimated population is taken at 16,813, the birth-rate estimate, the quantity of milk per capita consumed for the year is 7 gallons, less than a gill for each per diem. The amount per head is not excessive, but so far as I can discover, there is no difficulty in procuring the necessary amount for nursing mothers and infants. There has only been one application for the supply of cream under the Milk (Mothers and Children) Order, 1918.

There are 7 Slaughter Houses in the District, and these have been visited regularly, and with the exception of one, which is rather inadequate in size for the amount of work done therein, all the others are satisfactory in all respects and generally kept clean.

Unwholesome Food.

A considerable amount of unwholesome food was passed into the market during the period of the war, but owing to the restricted quantities allowed in certain cases, it was, to these responsible for the public health, sometimes a difficult matter to condemn absolutely those articles which came under their notice. In normal times, the task would have been much easier. Suspected food, however, which had to be cooked before eating, was not so dangerous as badly preserved foods eaten in the raw or cold state. There were no cases of illness, so far as I could discover, which could at any rate, be attributed to unwholesome food or flesh meat. Most of the dealers in flesh meat in our district reported promptly any suspicious carcasses which came under their notice, and we thus publicly acknowledge their zeal in assisting to protect the public health.

The quantity of meat consumed in the District was :—

| | | | |
|---------------|-----|-----|-------------------------------------|
| Beasts | ... | ... | 804 |
| Sheep | ... | ... | 2238 (this includes frozen animals) |
| Beef (frozen) | ... | ... | 1560 lbs. |

This is an approximate record of the quantity of meat consumed, and it shows a considerable reduction in the quantity as compared with 1915.

The health of the public has not, however, suffered from the enforced reduction of its proteid diet. In normal times the miner eats more meat than he requires, under the mistaken idea that large quantities are necessary to maintain his standard of health and strength in his work.

The following articles were seized during the year, viz.,

| | | | | |
|----------|-----|----------|-----|------------------|
| Beef | ... | 1131 lbs | ... | Tuberculous |
| Pork | ... | 20 lbs | ... | " |
| Bacon | ... | 234 lbs | ... | Unwholesome |
| Butter | ... | 60 lbs | ... | " |
| Cheese | ... | 36½ lbs | ... | " |
| Livers | ... | 17 | ... | Tuberculous, &c. |
| Lungs | ... | 11 | ... | " |
| Hearts | ... | 10 | ... | " |
| Stomachs | ... | 8 | ... | " |

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Notifiable Diseases reported in 1919.

| | | Number Notified | Parish of Kyo | Parish of Greencroft (Within) | Parish of Collierley | Removed to Hospital | Deaths |
|---|-----------------------|--------------------|------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|--------|
| 1 | Diphtheria ... | 103 | 56 | 13 | 34 | 101 | 11 |
| 2 | Erysipelas ... | 12 | 9 | 0 | 3 | — | — |
| 3 | Enteric ... | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| 4 | Measles ... | 221 | 112 | 31 | 78 | — | 3 |
| 5 | Malaria ... | 7 | 2 | 2 | 3 | — | — |
| 6 | Ophthalmia Neonatorum | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | — | — |
| 7 | Pneumonia ... | 12 | 7 | 1 | 4 | — | 24 |
| 8 | Pulmonary ... | | | | | | |
| | (a) Tuberculosis } | 14 | 8 | 0 | 6 | — | 20 |
| | (b) Other Forms... | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | — | 4 |
| 9 | Scarlet Fever .. | 90 | 66 | 9 | 15 | 88 | 2 |
| | | 467 | 261 | 57 | 149 | 191 | 65 |

The above table shows at a glance the total number of cases notified during the year, the number from each Parish, number removed to Hospital and deaths from each disease. The number of cases of Diphtheria reported exceeds that of last year by 78 ; Scarlet Fever by 26 ; Measles by 73. 2 Enterics this year as compared with none last year, but Erysipelas cases are less.

| | Number. | Remarks. |
|---|---------|---|
| PRECAUTIONS AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASES. | | |
| Lots of Infectious Bedding stoved or destroyed ... | 1 | Enteric bedding destroyed by burning. Scarlet Fever, Diptheria T.B. removals and death, &c. |
| Houses disinfected after Infectious Diseases ... | 172 | |
| | 23 | |
| Schools " " " ... | NONE | |
| Prosecutions for exposure of infected persons or things ... | NONE | |
| Convictions for " " " ... | NONE | |

Diphtheria.—This year witnessed an epidemic of the above infectious disease, more wide-spread in our District than on any previous occasion. 103 cases were reported, coming, not from an isolated or limited area as heretofore, but from all corners of the Urban District.

The epidemic was thus general, and it is very difficult to give a satisfactory reason for its continued and extensive ramifications.

Possibly the sudden variations in the atmospheric conditions, particularly in the latter months of the year and with its prevailing dampness, had a lowering effect upon the resistance to the virus in young children and thus predisposed them to fall victims more readily. 11 deaths occurred, showing the gravity of the epidemic. All cases were removed promptly to hospital.

Small Pox.—Four cases of Small Pox having been notified in a neighbouring District and removed to Howden Bank Hospital, seven re-vaccinations under the 1917 Regulations were satisfactorily performed.

Measles.—Our District was visited with an epidemic of measles extending over a great part of the year. It was a continuation with a short interregnum, of the epidemic of the previous year.

Three deaths were recorded as having occurred from it, but the danger lies, not so much in the original attack as in the injury to the lungs, which makes them a fertile soil for the subsequent incubation and developement of other diseases, including phthisis. Fortunately, the epidemic was of a mild character.

Encephalitis lethargica.—The notification of this disease, which was originally sanctioned for one year, is continued for this year. No cases were notified in our District.

Influenza.—The influenza epidemic visited our District in the early part of the year, its rapidity and symptoms being the same as in other parts of the country. The usual bronchial complications accompanied it, some of these being particularly severe and manifesting itself as pneumonia or broncho pneumonia. Whole families were prostrate, and when the mother was seized, the attention received by the family was most inadequate. I have no doubt that cases of pneumonia and other lung troubles were, although at that time not recognised, the sequelæ of influenza. Since the early part of the year there has been no recurrence of the disease.

Arrangements are being made to cope with any future epidemic which may visit us, on the lines laid down by the Ministry of Health.

Disinfection.

The number of houses disinfected after infectious disease was —

| | | | |
|---------------|-----|-----|-----|
| Scarlet Fever | ... | ... | 75 |
| Diphtheria | ... | ... | 95 |
| Enteric | ... | ... | 2 |
| Tuberculosis | ... | ... | 23 |
| | | | 195 |

As it is desirable when a patient is removed to Hospital, suffering from an infectious disease, that the mattress, bedding, curtains, mats, &c. in the room should be disinfected, preferably by high pressure steam, some arrangement should be made whereby these articles should be taken away and having been disinfected, brought back at the expense of the Council, an inventory of each article being taken in order to ascertain that they have been returned.

Were this done, as well as disinfecting the room in which the patient lay, using liberally soap and water, and allowing the entrance of pure air and sunlight by doors and windows, the probability is that the virus of the disease would be destroyed. Disinfecting the room without the thorough disinfection of the entire bedding is not of much value.

A wonderful amount of credulity exists among the average house-wife as to the charm worked by a bottle of nauseating, crude disinfectant, sprinkled about the room, doors and drains. This having been done, nothing more is necessary in their way of thinking. This is a convenient doctrine, but not a salutary or sanitary one, without the more important adjuncts of light, air and water, and some elbow grease.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

Staff.—Medical Officer of Health.

Inspector of Nuisances.

Chief Surveyor and Assistant Surveyor.

1 Temporary Architectural Assistant
(for New Housing Schemes).

Adoptive Acts.

The following Adoptive Acts are in force in the District, viz :—

- 1.—Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890.
- 2.—Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, Parts 2, 3, 4 and 5.
- 3.—Private Street Works Act, 1892.
- 4.—Public Libraries Acts.
- 5.—Baths and Wash-houses Acts.

Isolation Hospitals.

Annfield Plain Council forms one of the constituent authorities of the Lancaster Joint Hospital Board.

There are five hospitals under its control, viz. :—

Tanfield, Leadgate and Langley Park for diphtheria, scarlet fever and enteric cases ; **Howden Bank** for small pox and **Maiden Law**, (formerly a small pox Hospital), is now used as a Sanatorium for the treatment of phthisis and used exclusively for patients sent by the County Insurance Committee

For some time, and before recommended by the L.G.B., patients from overcrowded houses, suffering from influenza and broncho-pneumonia, were received into these hospitals. If notified voluntarily to the M.O.H. by the practitioner in charge that its removal to hospital was desirable in the interest of the patient or other inmates of the house, the case was immediately attended to.

The Hospital accommodation, except during severe epidemics, is ample for the area of the Joint Hospital Boards.

As it is desirable that all cases, particularly diphtheria cases, should, when notified to the M.O.H., be removed to hospital, as quickly as possible, the Joint Hospital Board is now making arrangements to have patients removed by Motor Ambulance in place of the slower method of horse ambulance. This ought to be an improvement on the old method and an advantage to the patient.

Bacteriological Examinations.

The following table gives particulars of the specimens sent in by medical practitioners in the District for examination during the year, in accordance with the arrangement made between the C.C. and the Durham C. of Medicine.

| | Number of Specimens Submitted. | RESULTS. | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|---------------|
| | | Positive. | Negative. | Inconclusive. |
| Diphtheria | 5 | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| Enteric Fever | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Phthisis (sputum) | 7 | 1 | 6 | 0 |
| TOTALS | 12 | 1 | 11 | 0 |

Bacteriological examination of blood, sputum and excretions of patients is of the greatest value in clearing up the diagnosis of doubtful cases of certain infectious diseases.

Anti-toxin is supplied free to the medical practitioners in the District.

HOUSING.

Particulars of the Survey of the District.

| | | | |
|--|-----|-------|-------|
| <i>Number</i> of all classes of dwelling houses in the District | ... | ... | 3,258 |
| Number of working-class houses | ... | ... | 3,186 |
| Average number of working class houses built annually during the | | | |
| 5 years before the war | ... | ... | 93 |
| Number of working class houses built between January 1st, 1915 | | | |
| and December 31st, 1918 | ... | ... | 57 |
| <i>Overcrowding</i> :—Number of Tenements | ... | ... | 300 |
| Number of occupiers | ... | ... | 2,400 |
| Houses intended for one family only and which are | | | |
| occupied by two or more families | ... | | 6 |
| <i>Estimate</i> of housing needs :—Working class houses required during next 3 years to :— | | | |
| (a) Meet unsatisfied demand for houses... | ... | ... | 400 |
| (b) Re-house persons to be displaced by clearance of unhealthy areas | | | 142 |
| (c) Replace other dwellings which are unfit for human habitation and | | | |
| cannot be made fit... | ... | ... | 103 |
| (d) Replace other houses which although they cannot at present | | | |
| be regarded as unfit for human habitation, fall definitely | | | |
| below a reasonable standard | ... | ... | 55 |
| | | Total | 700 |
| <i>Number</i> of houses seriously defective, but which can be made habitable | ... | | 474 |
| <i>New Houses</i> to be provided :— | | | |
| (1) With living room, scullery, three bedrooms and bathroom | ... | | 560 |
| (2) With parlour, living room, scullery, three bedrooms and bathroom | | | 140 |
| | | | 700 |

Houses to be erected at New Ewehurst, Catchgate, West Kyo, Greencroft, Stobb House and the Loud Hill, and expected to be completed by 31st July, 1922.

Housing Acts.

419 houses were inspected during the year under above Acts, but owing to the absence of alternate accommodation, these houses needing re-construction or closing, had minor repairs made upon them in order to keep them reasonably fit until the new houses are built under the Housing Schemes.

Several schemes, involving the re-construction of a number of properties, are in contemplation, and plans are being prepared by their respective owners.

Unhealthy Areas.

Closing Orders will be issued as soon as alternate accommodation can be provided, with respect to Annfield Place and Clavering Place, involving 142 houses.

ANNFIELD PLAIN URBAN DISTRICT.

1.==Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

| Premises. 1 | Number of | | |
|---|-------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| | Inspections. 2 | Written Notices. 3 | Prosecutions. 4 |
| Factories (Including Factory Laundries) ... | 3 | NONE | NONE |
| Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries ... | 16 | 5 | NONE |
| Workplaces | — | — | — |
| Total | 19 | 5 | NONE |

2.==Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

| Particulars. 1 | Number of Defects. | | | Number of of Prosecutions 5 |
|---|--------------------|----------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| | Found. 2 | Remedied. 3 | Referred to H. M. Inspector. 4 | |
| <i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:—</i> | | | | |
| Want of Cleanliness | 4 | 4 | | |
| Defective Ventilation | 1 | 1 | NONE | NONE |
| Total | 5 | 5 | NONE | NONE |

3 ==HOME WORK.

NIL.

4.==Registered Workshops

| Workshops on the Register (s. 131 at the end of the year. | | | | | | | Number. |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---------|
| 1 | | | | | | | 2 |
| Tailoring | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| Millinery | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6 |
| Shoemaking | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5 |
| Blacksmiths | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| Joinery | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 |
| Retail Bakehouses | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5 |
| Saddlery | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Total number of Workshops on Register | | | | | | | 28 |

Register of Drapers. *Fabric's Misdescription Act, 1913.*

| | | |
|--------------|---------|---------------|
| No. of Shops | Visits. | Persecutions. |
| 20 | 20 | Nil |

March, 1920.

W. M. MORISON, D.P.H., Etc.,
Medical Officer of Health.

REPORT OF THE COUNTY HEALTH INSPECTOR.

During the past quarter the County Health Inspector has visited this district and had an interview with the Medical Officer of Health with respect to the local sanitary requirements, and with the local Surveyor, in the absence of the Sanitary Inspector who is in the Army, inspected the properties mentioned in Dr Smedley's Report of December, 1908, and reports as follows:—

Since 1911 Census was taken 354 houses have been built and 132 permanently closed or demolished. It is admitted by the District Council that there may be some overcrowding, perhaps 200 to 300 cases, but I understand that they do not consider it to be very serious. It is, however, estimated that at least 350 houses are required in this district to overtake the arrears due to diminished building operations, which have fallen from an average of about 76 houses per annum to nil, and also owing to a number of insanitary properties which should be closed. About 5 years ago this Council built 68 houses, and have made provisional arrangements for securing the necessary land for 100 more, and are now inquiring about other sites.

It will hereinafter be seen that several improvements have been effected, but there is still much insanitary property, which is very old, dilapidated, badly situated and arranged, and has so many inherent bad qualities that the habitations can only be regarded as shelters, and often nothing short of demolition and clearing the sites for a fresh start can make for progress in housing. Many water-closets and ash-closets have been provided, yet foul privy-ashpits are still numerous in the district, as are also large unpaved or defectively paved surfaces in streets, common and private yards, and generally about dwellings, often conducing to dampness and grossly insanitary conditions.

Large numbers of stepladders are still in use throughout the district, leading to low attic bedrooms, and while the squalid conditions under which many people are living at present are largely due to structural defects and the surroundings of the property, a contributing factor of great importance is the want of that systematic supervision which tends to alleviate bad conditions, and can only be given by an active, intelligent Inspector who is completely in touch with his district and thoroughly understands his duties. The District Surveyor, who is acting temporarily in the absence of the Inspector who is in the Army, has much other work of importance to occupy his attention.

CLAVERING PLACE, SOUTH DERWENT COLLIERY CO.—Little or nothing has been done here. The property is much the same as when visited by Dr Smedley.

HIGH SQUARE AND LOW SQUARE.—The wood huts have been cleared away and 71 good houses with self-contained yards, ash-closets and water-closets, etc., provided instead.

WESTON'S BUILDINGS, NEW CORNWALL.—The houses complained of have all been closed. Only one is now occupied with a shop and it is falling into disrepair.

HOBSON'S COTTAGES, WEST KYO.—Two cottages, consisting of living-room and unceiled attic with stepladder approach, are damp and defective. Occupiers:—John Downey, 2a and 4c; and Thomas Storey, 3a and 3c. These should be made thoroughly habitable or closed.

There are also 2 houses very similar and near the above occupied by John Ward, 2a; and Thomas Peters, 2a. The floors are 2 or 3 feet below the ground which is against the back wall. Mr Ward was ill in bed in the living-room as he said the garret fire would not burn without filling the room with smoke. The front room walls of houses occupied by Edward Mulligan, 1a and 2c; and Wilson Legge, 2a and 2c, are very damp. The floor of the latter's house at entrance, under stairs and in pantry is also defective. The yards have been relaid and coalhouses provided since Dr Smedley reported thereon.

ALMA PLACE, WEST KYO.—Four cottages consisting of living-room and attic with stepladder approach. One or two floors have been relaid and some painting done. There are no back doors or yards, and poor pantries, the conveniences being at end of Row. They should be thoroughly overhauled and made fit for habitation, if that be possible, otherwise they should be closed.

WILKINSON'S BUILDINGS, WEST KYO.—Property closed and in ruins.

WAIL'S BUILDINGS, WEST KYO.—There are two cottages here occupied by Mary Brenton, 4a and 1c; and James Beattie, 2a and 3c; in a dirty dilapidated condition and quite unfit.

NORTH ROAD, PONTOP ROWS.—On the East side of the road 19 cottages are still occupied, the conditions being as described. On the North side of the road 11 cottages have been demolished and 37 new houses provided with good yards, water-closets, etc. This building scheme is to be continued.

NORTH ROAD, PHILLIPSON'S PROPERTY.—I understand that some minor repairs have been done here, but two of the sleeping rooms are well rooms. In its present condition the house in my opinion is quite unfit.

BEATTIE'S BUILDINGS, DELIGHT BANK, DIPTON.—This property has been overhauled and the tenants reduced to 4. The improvement is considerable. There yet remains, however, a covered ashpit and 4 privies a little distance from the houses.

CLARKE'S SQUARE, DIPTON.—Huts cleared away.

MURRAY'S BUILDINGS, DIPTON.—Two cottages have been demolished to make an approach to Picture Hall. Two water-closets are provided for 2 remaining houses, which require to be thoroughly overhauled or closed.

FRONT STREET, DIPTON (TODD'S BUILDINGS).—A cement concrete path has been laid down and the property generally repaired. A back door and window have been put into one house, but there are still two back-to-back tenements occupied by Robinson and Roberts, with bad floors.

FRONT STREET, DIPTON (WILKINSON'S BUILDINGS).—One block of property has been closed, and is in a state of dilapidation. Two insanitary tenements still exist. Should be thoroughly overhauled or closed.

WOOD HOUSES, NORTH ROAD, DIPTON.—The wood houses have been demolished and 10 or more new houses erected.

EDWARD'S BUILDINGS, FLINT HILL.—Two tenements have been made into a through house. Yard pavement defective. Foul privy-ashpit, which is not conveniently accessible to one front tenant.

FOSTER'S BUILDINGS, HILL TOP, DIPTON.—Little or nothing done.

ROBINSON'S COTTAGES, FRONT STREET, HILL TOP, DIPTON.—Closed and dilapidated.

O'NEIL'S BUILDINGS, FRONT STREET, HILL TOP, DIPTON.—This property has been overhauled and greatly improved. New water-closets and ash-closets have been provided and much impervious paving laid down. New windows to improve the ventilation have also been provided. There are, however, still 4 tenements back to back.

BIRTLEY'S COTTAGES, FRONT STREET, HILL TOP, DIPTON.—Closed.

WEST ROAD, DODD'S BUILDINGS.—Two houses have been converted into one and a water-closet (now defective) provided.

COLPITT'S BUILDINGS, WEST ROAD.—The number of tenants has been reduced to 3, and each tenement has 3 or 4 rooms. Two water-closets have been provided, new stairs put into one house and property improved by minor repairs. The yard and approach paving is still defective, as are also some of the window frames and sills, otherwise the property is fairly habitable.

WEST ROAD, THOMPSON'S BUILDINGS.—A new cement concrete floor was laid in Toole's House about 5 years ago, and ceiling of upper room boarded. Similar house at rear, occupied by Edith Smiles, has a very defective floor. Bad houses, only shelters.

WEST ROAD, TAYLOR'S COTTAGES.—Six houses demolished and rebuilt with good yards, water-closets, etc.

MISS LEE'S HOUSE, WEST ROAD.—The two rooms complained of have been taken into the adjoining house, and the flagged floor has been replaced by one of wood.

BACK FRONT STREET WEST (LUMLEY'S EXECUTORS).—A cement concrete path has been laid down and the yard covered with ballast. Four windows have been put into each gable end to improve the ventilation. Ash-closets have been put in and privies removed.

JOSEPH STREET, ROBERT STREET AND JOHN STREET, WEST KYO.—The yards have been enclosed within a brick wall and paved with bricks, but the 40 houses are still back-to-back, and the conveniences consist of 24 privies and 6 covered ashpits at the end of the rows. These houses can never be made into desirable dwellings till they are converted into through houses with water-closets on the premises and thoroughly repaired where required.

NORTH ROAD, DICKSON'S BUILDINGS.—Some cement concrete paving has been laid down at rear, but there is an unpaved cartway about 15 feet wide the whole length of the buildings. It is, in my opinion, more important to tar-macadam these congested yards than many new streets. Front houses have unventilated pantries under stairs.

NORTH ROAD, FORSTER'S BUILDINGS.—Four two-roomed tenements back-to-back. Large unpaved yards at rear. Foul privy-ashpits. Only a little defective paving near back door. The family of one occupier, Wm. Alderson, 2a, 5c (3 beds), sleep in one room where there is a defective ceiling. The pantry of tenant at front is below stairs and ventilated through the riser.

NORTH ROAD, FORSTER'S BUILDINGS.—Large unpaved yard and foul privy-ashpit. There is a great want of impervious paving in most of the yards on the North side of the North Road.

NORTH ROAD, BAINBRIDGE'S PROPERTY.—Little or nothing has been done here. The pantries for front tenements are cupboards by the side of kitchen fireplace, but ventilated through outer wall.

WILKINSON'S BUILDINGS AND ADJOINING BLOCK, DELIGHT, DIPTON.—Nothing done. Conditions extremely foul. Back and front tenements not on the same level.

CROSS STREET WEST, DIPTON.—Three houses are still occupied. Some have been demolished to make room for offices, the remainder are in ruins. Plans for a building scheme have been approved.

DELIGHT ROWS, DIPTON.—Poor houses with grossly insanitary surroundings. A number of these are to come down in connection with the last mentioned building scheme.

FRONT STREET, DIPTON (STRATFORD'S BUILDINGS).—Little or nothing done. Should be made into through houses with self-contained yard, W.C.'s, etc. Conditions foul.

DELIGHT COLLIERY HOUSES, FLINT HILL.—Some new windows have been put in but the dampness, owing to a defective gutter between front and back cottages, continues. There are also 2 privies for four cottages. In addition the floors are defectively flagged and stepladders are in use. There is also a want of impervious paving at front and rear. Very old property.

WEST ROAD, SMITH'S BUILDINGS.—Obstructive shed removed and some minor repairs made. Ashpit-privies and unpaved yard just as reported. Property should be thoroughly overhauled.

WEST KYO (EARL GREY INN).—There are now 2 privies and a common covered ashpit here.

JACKSON SQUARE, WEST KYO.—These are chiefly two-roomed houses built of free-stone on an old quarry. The west Row backs into the hillside much below the ground level with only a narrow area separating the house walls from the strata, and the east Row backs on to a small runner of water from which the foundations spring. There is much dampness in the house walls, which probably are built without a satisfactory damp course. The pantry accommodation is in most cases simply a cupboard under the stairs and not at all adequate. Some ceilings and roofs are defective. The conveniences consist of foul privies and an ashpit in front of the houses. Little or nothing appears to have been done since Dr Smedley visited this property.

QUARRY COTTAGES, NORTH ROAD.—Four two-roomed cottages facing north, which seldom if ever get any sunlight. There is a stable at rear of the top house, and some erections at the rear of the others. Some of the back walls are damp and the ash-closets are out of repair. Steps should be taken to provide more sunlight to these houses, and also a cement concrete path and two self-cleansing sinks should be substituted for the two large cesspool gullies now in use, and about which complaints are made.

BACK FRONT STREET, WEST KYO (MURRAY'S BUILDINGS).—Two water-closets have been provided. The obstructive shed has been removed from against the back wall. Very poor class of property which cannot be made properly habitable.

BACK FRONT STREET, RUSSELL'S YARD.—These cottages are just as when inspected by Dr Smedley. Should be closed when suitable provision is made for tenants.

BACK FRONT STREET, WEST SIDE (HALL'S COTTAGES).—A water-closet has been put in. Very poor class of property. Cannot be made properly habitable.

ANNFIELD PLACE, NEW CORNWALL.—In the east block five houses have been demolished. Nos. 28, 29, 33, 34, 35, 43, 44, 45, 46 and 72 are closed, and Nos. 39 and 69 are empty and in the hands of the masons. In addition some minor repairs have been effected, otherwise the conditions are just as when Dr Smedley visited them. It is absolutely impossible to make good houses of these without rebuilding them.

CURRY'S SQUARE, DIPTON.—Nothing done. Squalid conditions at rear. Plans have been submitted to the District Council showing proposals to provide self-contained yards, water-closets and coalhouses and other improvements to the lobbies and pantries.

SMITH'S YARD, DIPTON.—There are four two-roomed houses and one three-roomed house in this yard, which is unpaved, and also contains two foul privies, one ashpit, and also a foul sink. In some instances there are small windows on the stairhead, but no back door and the back walls are wet, the ground at the rear being above the floor level. The sinks become choked and the living-rooms are said to be flooded from time to time. The property is in a very bad state of repair and quite unfit. The occupiers are Mrs Ball, 2a, 2c; George Robson, 2a, 2c; Mrs Gilbert, 2a, 5c; Edward Freeman, 2a, 6c; John Armstrong, 2a, 2c.

COOPER'S BUILDINGS, DIPTON.—Conditions just the same. No land at rear belonging to these premises to allow of through ventilation by doors or windows.

DOULAIS BUILDINGS, DIPTON.—Conditions just the same. Plans prepared but work not proceeded with owing to the war.

WATERSON'S BUILDINGS, FRONT STREET, DIPTON.—Some minor repairs have been made, and a footpath has been laid in the front street, otherwise the conditions are very bad.

FRONT STREET, DIPTON (BUTE'S COTTAGES).—A new cement concrete footpath has been laid in front of the high block and some minor repairs executed, but still far from being satisfactory. Three houses are empty and others are under notice to quit. I am informed that the further improvement of these houses was being considered when the war broke out.

JOICEY'S PROPERTY, FLINT HILL.—One cottage is closed and dilapidated. The adjoining cottage consists of two apartments, which are fairly clean. Roof recently repaired, defective floors, foul privy-ashpit.

PHILLIPSON'S BUILDINGS, FLINT HILL.—There are four cottages here occupied by Messrs John McIver, Patrick Morris, Joseph Elliot and Charles Beverley, consisting of a living-room and an attic approached by a stepladder. The roofs are defective, three not ceiled, and defectively flagged floors. These cottages, being situated at the bottom of a declivity, are said to be flooded from time to time, and there are foul conditions and a want of impervious pavement about the entrance to the dwellings.

OFFICE YARD, WHITE-LE-HEAD.—A concrete path has been laid down at the front of these cottages which are just as described (without back doors and yard), a description which perhaps applies to hundreds of houses in this district and a large number in this locality. These cottages would be built probably 60 years ago, and would cost about as

many pounds. They consist of a large living-room and attic approached by a stepladder, and divided into two compartments. Some of the ground floors are defective, and the free-stone walls are somewhat damp presumably owing to there being no damp course, and also to defective spouts.

HIGH BUSHBLADES, TANFIELD MOOR COLLIERY.—There are similar old properties here in need of attention.

JOHN STREET AND JAMES' STREET, TANFIELD MOOR COLLIERY.—There are ten houses in the former street and fourteen in the latter, where the stepladder is in general use, and through ventilation being only by means of windows, there being no front doors. These are similar old properties which have had some minor repairs effected, but are more or less damp.

